

In the Claims

Claims remain as follows:

1. (previously presented) A system for streaming data comprising a content providing server capable of storing content and communicating the content to a plurality of client terminator units via a communications network in response to requests for the content, and a distribution server coupled in-line between the content providing server and the plurality of client terminator units, wherein the distribution server is arranged to generate a plurality of onward data streams and transmit the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively, in response to control data received from the content providing server and in response to an incoming data stream received or being received from the content providing server, the incoming data stream corresponding to the content, wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and the distribution server offsets in time each of the plurality of onward data streams with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.
2. (previously presented) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the plurality of onward data streams is generated prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.
3. (previously presented) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the offset value is provided by the content providing server.
4. (previously presented) A system as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the distribution server is arranged to loop a first one of the plurality of onward data stream at least once.
5. (previously presented) A multicast server for streaming data, comprising a processor unit coupled to a storage device and a router, the processor unit being arranged to receive control data from a content providing server and to receive an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content, and being arranged to store at least part of the incoming data stream in the storage device, wherein the processor unit is further

arranged to generate a plurality of onward data streams for transmission to a plurality of client terminator units, respectively, in response to the control data received from the content providing server and in response to the incoming data stream received or being received from the content providing server, wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of the plurality of onward data streams is offset in time by the multicast server with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.

6. (previously presented) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the router is arranged to transmit the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively.

7. (previously presented) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the plurality of onward data streams are generated prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) A multicast server as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the processor unit is arranged to loop a first one of the plurality of onward data stream at least once.

10. (previously presented) A method of streaming data between a content providing server and a plurality of client terminator units, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at a distribution server control data sent from the content providing server;

receiving at the distribution server at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content;

in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of an incoming data stream, generating a plurality of onward data streams, and

transmitting the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively;

wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising generating the plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 10, further comprising the step of looping a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

14. (previously presented) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code being for streaming data between a content providing server and a plurality of client terminator units, the code comprising:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, a plurality of onward data streams;

code to transmit the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.

15. (previously presented) Computer executable software code as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:

code to generate the plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) Computer executable software code as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:

code to loop a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

18. (previously presented) A programmed computer for streaming data between a content providing server and a plurality of client terminator units, comprising memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code, and

a processor for executing the program code stored in memory, wherein the program code includes:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, a plurality of onward data streams;

code to transmit the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.

19. (previously presented) A programmed computer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the program code further comprises:

code to generate the plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

20. (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) A programmed computer as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the program code further comprises:

code to loop a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.

22. (previously presented) A computer readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code being for streaming data between a content providing server and a plurality of client terminator units and comprising:

code to receive control data sent from the content providing server;

code to receive at least part of an incoming data stream corresponding to content from the content providing server in response to requests for the content,

code to generate, in response to receiving the control data and the at least part of the incoming data stream, a plurality of onward data streams;

code to transmit the plurality of onward data streams to the plurality of client terminator units, respectively,

wherein the plurality of onward data streams correspond substantially to the content and wherein each of said plurality of onward streams is offset in time with respect to a preceding one of said plurality of onward data streams by a single offset value indicated in the control data.

23. (previously presented) A computer readable medium as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising:

code to generate the plurality of onward data streams prior to receipt of all of the incoming data stream.

24. (cancelled)

25. (previously presented) A computer readable medium as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising:

code to loop a first one of said plurality of onward data stream at least once.